

## A LEGION OF HEROES.

Men Who Wear the Coveted Medal of Honor For Bravery in Battle.

The Medal of Honor Legion that recently held its seventh annual convention in Philadelphia and elected Lieutenant Colonel Charles M. Betts commander is composed of the small band of heroes who wear the medal of honor, conferred upon them for some deed of heroism on the battlefield. The medal of honor was first established as a reward for military service by act of congress, approved July 12, 1862. The medal is a five-pointed star tipped with trefail. Each point contains a crown of laurel and oak, and various stars and emblematic designs are on the body of the trophy. It is to the army of the United States what the Victoria cross is in England, the cross of the Legion of Honor in France and the iron cross in Germany. It is a badge of personal heroism and is conferred irrespective of rank.

That great care is exercised in the award of the medal of honor is shown by the fact that up to 1891 but 500 out of the 2,778,304 patriotic men who volunteered to defend the Union had received the coveted decoration. As the records of the war department are revised many men are found who are entitled to wear the medal, but who have been overlooked, and from time to time some hero who performed deeds of valor over 30 years ago receives a "franked" package from the war department containing his long delayed medal of honor.

Abroad the soldier who wears the Victoria cross or the cross of the Legion of Honor is a conspicuous hero, but there is little lionizing in this country for the medal of honor wearer. The decoration is presented with no ceremony, and as a usual thing the existence of the hero's trophy is known only to his intimate friends.

Lieutenant Colonel Betts, the new commander of the Medal of Honor Legion, enlisted as a private in Company E, Fifth Pennsylvania cavalry in 1862, and in 1865 was made lieutenant colonel of the regiment and placed in command. He received the medal of honor for gallant conduct in charging and capturing a South Carolina battalion of cavalry at Greensboro, N. C., April 11, 1865.

## THE CARNOT MEDAL.

Baron de Coubertin's Patriotic Plan For Interesting Americans in French Politics.

Titled foreigners are usually more interested in American heiresses than they are in American politics, but Baron Pierre de Coubertin is an exception to the rule. He has twice crossed the big pond for the purpose of studying the social condition and politics of the United States, and although he is a great admirer of American educational methods and Yankee erudition he is a trifle disappointed in the prevailing lack of knowledge of French modern politics displayed by the young men of France's sister republic.

When the baron first visited the United States, in 1889, he was the bearer of a commission from the French minister of public instruction to visit the universities of the country and turn in a report. This he did, but while engaged in the work of inspection he discovered the paucity of special knowledge in this country concerning French politics. He was much interested in America, and very naturally desired that America



BARON PIERRE DE COUBERTIN.

should be more interested in France. Accordingly, when he returned to America, in 1893, he offered annual prizes to a number of American universities for the students who should display the best knowledge of French institutions and modern politics. The prizes are vermeil medals, which the donor calls the Carnot medals, in honor of the martyr president of France, although the name "Pierre de Coubertin" appears on the reverse.

Thus far the medals have been offered at Princeton university, the University of Louisiana, Leland Stanford, Jr., university and the University of California. The two last named universities compete together for the same medal, which is awarded at the conclusion of an inter-collegiate debate between the young orators of the two seats of learning. In speaking of his enterprise, the baron says:

"I am trying to introduce a study of French politics in America, and at the same time endeavoring to stimulate an interest in American politics among my own countrymen. I must admit, however, that thus far I have not attained any great amount of success in this regard."

Cork Legs For the Multitude.  
The empress of Japan has promised to provide cork legs for all soldiers who need them.

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## MY FINANCIAL CAREER.

The One Experience of a Man Who Wanted to Open an Account.

When I go into a bank, I get rattled. The clerks rattle me; the wickets rattle me; the sight of the money rattles me; everything rattles me.

moment I cross the threshold of a bank I am a hesitating jay. If I attempt to transact business there, I become an irresponsible idiot.

I knew this beforehand, but my salary had been raised to \$50 a month, and I felt that the bank was the only place for it.

So I shuffled in and looked timidly round at the clerks. I had an idea that a person about to open an account must needs consult the manager.

I went up to a wicket marked "Accountant." The accountant was a tall, cool devil. The very sight of him rattled me. My voice was sepulchral.

"Can I see the manager?" I said, and added solemnly, "alone." I don't know why I said "alone."

"Certainly," said the accountant, and fetched him.

The manager was a grave, calm man. I held my \$55 clutched in a crumpled ball in my pocket.

"Are you the manager?" I said. God knows I didn't doubt it.

"Yes," he said.

"Can I see you," I asked, "alone?" I didn't want to say "alone" again, but without it the thing seemed self evident.

The manager looked at me, in some alarm. He felt that I had an awful secret to reveal.

"Come in here," he said and led the way to a private room. He turned the key in the lock.

"We are safe from interruption here," he said. "Sit down."

We both sat down and looked at one another. I found no voice to speak.

"You are one of Pinkerton's men, I presume," he said.

He had gathered from my mysterious manner that I was a detective. I knew what he was thinking and it made me worse.

"No, not from Pinkerton's," I said, seemingly to imply that I came from a rival agency.

"To tell the truth," I went on as if I had been prompted to lie about it, "I am not a detective at all. I have come to open an account. I intend to keep all my money in this bank."

The manager looked relieved, but still serious. He concluded now that I was a son of Baron Rothschild or a young Gould.

"A large account, I suppose," he said.

"Fairly large," I whispered. "I propose to deposit \$55 now and \$50 a month regularly."

The manager got up and opened the door. He called to the accountant.

"Come out," he said unkindly loud, "this gentleman is opening an account. He will deposit \$55. Good morning."

I rose.

A big iron door stood open at the side of the room.

"Good morning," I said and stepped into the safe.

"Come out," said the manager coldly and showed me the other way.

I went up to the accountant's wicket and poked the ball of money at him with a quick, convulsive movement as if I were doing a conjuring trick.

My face was ghastly pale.

"Here," I said, "deposit it." The tons of the words seemed to mean, "Let us do this painful thing while the fit is on us."

He took the money and gave it to another clerk. He made me write the sum on a slip and sign my name in a book. I no longer knew what I was doing. The bank swam before my eyes.

"Is it deposited?" I asked in a hollow, vibrating voice.

"It is," said the accountant.

"Then I want to draw a check."

My idea was to draw out \$5 of it for present use. Some one gave me a check-book through a wicket, and some one else began telling me how to write it out. The people in the bank had the impression that I was an invalid millionaire. I wrote something on the check and thrust it in at the clerk. He looked at it.

"What are you drawing it all out again?" he asked in surprise. Then I realized that I had written 56 instead of 6. I was too far gone to reason now. I had a feeling that it was impossible to explain the thing. All the clerks had stopped writing to look at me.

Reckless with misery, I made a plunge.

"Yes, the whole thing."

"You withdraw your money from the bank?"

"Every cent of it."

"Are you not going to deposit any more?" said the clerk, astonished.

"Never."

An idiot hope struck me that they might think something had insulted me while I was writing the check, and that I had changed my mind. I made a wretched attempt to look like a man with a fearfully quick temper.

The clerk prepared to pay the money.

"How will you have it?" he said.

"What?"

"How will you have it?"

"Oh," I thought his meaning and answered, without even trying to think. "In fifties."

He gave me a \$50 bill.

"And the six?" he asked dryly.

"In sixes," I said.

He gave it me, and I rushed out.

As the big doors swung behind me I caught the echo of a roar of laughter that went up to the ceiling of the bank. Since then I bank no more. I keep my money in cash in my trousers pocket and my savings in silver dollars in a sock—Stephen Leacock in Life.

Reckless Exposure.

"I don't wish to boast," said the financial editor, "but I've got the cleanest desk in the room."

"This is the first time you've cleaned it up for five years," growled the exchange editor, "and you'll catch cold. See if you don't."—Chicago Tribune.

An Outrage.

Conductor—You'll have to pay fare for that child, sir; he's over 6.

Passenger (indignantly)—Well, that's the first time I've ever been asked to pay fare for that baby, and he's ridden with me on several trains for nine years and more.

—Texas Siftings.

Pays to Sell Cheaply.

Customer—So you sell these watches at \$5 each? It must cost that to make them.

Jeweler—It does.

Customer—Then how do you make any money?

Jeweler—Repairing 'em.—New York Weekly.

Following Her Usual Custom.

Cora—What are you going to do on your birthday?

Clarissa—Going to take off another year.—Yonkers Statesman.

The ADVERTISER AND GAZETTE on sale at Hilo, J. A. Martin news agent.

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